

Recently, as the execution date drew near, a defense attorney raised questions about whether Wuornos was mentally competent to demand her own death by lethal injection.

But Wuornos insisted she knew what she was doing.


"I am so sick of hearing this 'she's crazy' stuff," she said. "I've been evaluated so many times. I'm competent, sane, and I'm trying to tell the truth, and I'll take a polygraph on every single word on those pages."


After examining Wuornos, a panel of three psychiatrists ruled her competent for execution and Florida Governor Jeb Bush agreed.

— CNN Correspondent John Zarrella contributed to this report.

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Florida executes Wuornos

Wednesday, October 9, 2002 Posted: 10:08 AM EDT (1408 GMT)

STARKE, Florida (CNN)-- Serial killer Aileen Wuornos was executed Wednesday by lethal injection at the Florida State Prison, more than 10 years after she murdered six men along Florida highways while working as a prostitute.

Florida officials said the execution took place at 9:47 a.m. ET.

Wuornos, called "The Highway Hooker" and "The Damsel of Death," admitted she killed six middle-aged men in 1989 and 1990, luring some of them by posing as a stranded motorist on north central Florida highways.

One of the nation's few female serial killers, Wuornos had fired her attorneys and dropped her appeals despite lingering questions over her sanity.

Her case was the subject of books, movies and even an opera. In time, she apologized to her victims' families. But last year -- after a decade on death row -- Wuornos volunteered for the death penalty, saying she'd kill again.

"There is no point in sparing me," she said in July 2001. "It's a waste of taxpayers' money."

Police said Wuornos, 46, was a prostitute who worked the Florida highways. Sgt. Bob Kelley of the Volusia County Sheriff's Department -- who investigated Wuornos' first victim, Richard Mallory -- said Wuornos shot her victims to death, robbed them, and then dumped their bodies.

At first, she claimed she acted in self-defense.

"After she was convicted of the first murder of Richard Mallory, she then pled guilty to the others, and after a certain point in time she started to recant, and say she wasn't a victim," Kelley said. "She simply robbed and killed those men to gain their personal property and to gain money."

When she asked to be put to death, Wuornos said the same thing.

"I killed those men, robbed them as cold as ice. And I'd do it again, too," she said. "There's no chance in keeping me alive or anything, because I'd kill again. I have hate crawling through my system."

Wuornos stood trial only for the killing of Mallory; she pleaded no contest to five other killings. And police believe she was responsible for the death of a seventh man, but his body was never found and Wuornos was not charged in his death.



Aileen Wuornos talks to her attorney, Raag Singhal, at a hearing last July.

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VIDEO

Aileen Wuornos, who became known as the first female serial killer in the U.S., faces execution. CNN's Mark Potter reports (October 8)

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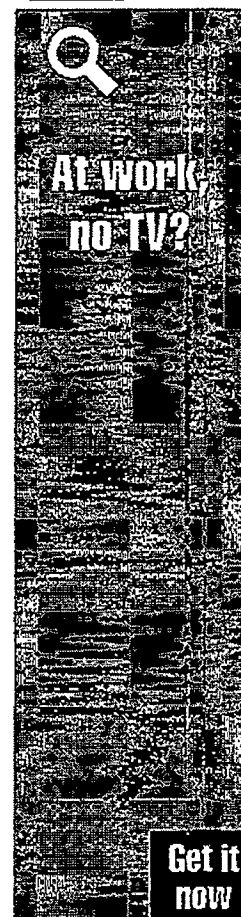
Wuornos v. State of Florida: (Fl. Sup. Ct. 1996) (FindLaw document)

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